

Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2021

Meeting was held virtually on Thursday July 15, 2021 at 5:30pm
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/137647725>

Click this link for access to the full recording of this meeting https://somervillema-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/dmoore_somervillema_gov/EZ_sjVnR0ThAm4Cl11xJ5EoB6WRMdzm-4GpthDna_7_oUQ?e=peddXc

Attendance: Thomas Graney, Lena Webb, Lt. Polito, Mark Niedergang, Jill Lathan

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Adam Polinski, Alexandra Kleyman, Justin Schreiber, Nancy Bacci, Brad Rawson, Viola Augustin, Jessica Bellow

Other: Ted Feldman, Arah Schuur, Stephen Mackey, Ian Woloschin, Zachary Rosenberg, Tom Lamar, George Schneeloch, Jon Sillari, Alex Epstein, John Connolly,

Meeting Ground Rules:

1. Listen to the other side
2. Focus on issues, not personalities
3. Avoid questioning motives
4. Be polite

Item #1 – Acceptance of Minutes from the June 10, 2021 Traffic Commission Meeting
A motion to Approve was made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0

Item #2 – Request for Handicapped Parking
101 Bromfield Rd

- Nancy Bacci, interim ADA Coordinator, reviewed the application and location, the property has a driveway that is used by others and is closer to the back entrance where the stairs are difficult to navigate. She recommends approval.

A motion to Approve was made by Tom Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0

Item #3 – Request to making the following curb regulation changes as part of the mobility improvements for the College Ave Mobility Improvements Project:

- a. Restrict 5 on-street parking spaces on College Ave northbound approaching Powder House Circle for a bus queue jump lane.
- b. Remove the bus southbound bus stop on College Ave at Summit St and the northbound bus stop on College Ave at Kidder Ave, and retain a no parking anytime regulation for the implementation of a pedestrian refuge island and new crosswalk.
- c. Restrict 7 on-street parking spaces on College Ave approaching the Kidder/Summit intersection on both sides of the street for the implementation of a pedestrian refuge island.

- d. Restrict 5 on-street parking spaces on College Ave approaching the William/Francesca intersection on both sides of the street for the implementation of a floating bus stop and a new crosswalk.
 - e. Restrict 2 on-street parking spaces on College Ave southbound on the far side of William St for the implementation of an in-lane bus stop and new crosswalk.
 - f. Remove two bus stops on either side of College Ave at the Chapel/Hall intersection and replace this regulation with 4 resident permit parking only spaces.
 - g. Restrict 9 parking spaces on the west side College Ave between Winter St and opposite Morrison Ave for the implementation of an inbound bus queue jump lane.
 - h. Restrict 9 parking spaces on the east side of College Ave between Morrison Ave and opposite Winter St for the implementation of an outbound protected bike lane.
- Justin Schreiber of the mobility department gave his presentation explaining each of the sub items (a-h) and background information including travel habits on College Av, community notification, design overview and a summary of public input, concerns and requests. He also noted these changes if approved will be monitored and evaluated and there is potential for additional changes in the future. Click on the link above for the full presentation and commentary from those in attendance.
 - There were several people that spoke in favor of the request. The following is a recap of reasons stated:
 - Will provide a continuous north bound bike route from Davis Square to Powder House Circle
 - Will be useful to connect to the community path
 - Better compliance with all day bus and bike lanes, easier to understand and provides safe separation for bikes
 - Meets stated goals of Somervision 2040
 - Preventing tragic accidents
 - Making it safer for children to bike through Davis Square
 - Rapid turnover spaces will benefit businesses.
 - There were also people that were against these changes. The following is a recap of reasons stated:
 - This is only a portion of the project and many more parking spaces will be removed overall.
 - Removing all of these spaces will destroy businesses that are just starting to recover from the pandemic
 - Business and property owners were not notified until after some meetings took place
 - Economic Development was not included on the project
 - Incomplete Data and lack of public outreach
 - Mark Niedergang stated there were several emails received by the commission and all but 2 were in support. These emails are part of the official record. Traffic calming and safety is the number one issue. He fully supports the request and his only concern is the need for more accessible parking spaces. He also read an email from Ed Faulkner into the record in full support of the project.
 - Lena Webb supports the request and agrees that quicker turnover will benefit businesses.

- The Chair asked if the members had any objection to voting on the item as a whole rather than voting on each subsection and Mark Niedergang stated both items 3 and 4 should be voted on all together since it is a complex plan with many parts.
- Justin Schreiber then gave a brief overview of each request in Item #4.
- The Chair asked the members if they had any questions, they did not, she then gave them a few minutes to review all the items.

The vote for this Item was taken after a review of item #4

Item #4 – Request to making the following curb regulation changes as part of the parking mitigation plan for the College Ave Mobility Improvements Project:

- Replace the resident permit parking only regulation with 2 parking meters at 50 College Ave and 2 parking meters at 45 College Ave.
- Relocate the accessible parking space at 31 College Ave to 45 College Ave.
- Add a new “8am-10pm Loading Zone, 20min Commercial, 5 min passenger” regulation and a new accessible parking space at 40 College Ave.
- Replace the resident permit parking only regulation with 3 parking meters on the north side Morrison Ave at College Ave.
- Replace the resident permit parking only regulation with 5 parking meters, 2 on the south side and 3 on the north side of Park Ave at College Ave.
- Replace the resident permit parking only regulation with 4 parking meters on the north side of Winslow Ave at College Ave.
- Add a “Loading Zone 8am to 12pm” to the 2 parking meter spaces north side of Winter St at College Ave and replace the resident permit parking only regulation with 6 parking meters at approximately 7-15 Winter St.
- Replace the pickup/dropoff regulation at 413 Highland Ave with an “8am-10pm Loading Zone, 20min Commercial, 5 min passenger” regulation.
- Add a “Loading Zone 8am to 12pm” to the first three parking meters on the east side of Dover St past Davis Square.
- Add a new 80 foot “8am-10pm Loading Zone, 20min Commercial, 5 min passenger” regulation to the north side of Meacham St past Dover St.
- Remove the “4PM-6PM MON-FRI No Parking” restriction from 7 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave from 409 Highland Ave to the Davis Square intersection.

A motion to Approve both Item 3 and Item 4, in their entirety, was made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0

Item #5 – Request for 2 Patient Pick Up/Drop Off spaces on Revolution Drive for the MGH Imaging Center

- Suzanne Rinfret explained this request came from Federal Realty Trust for an Imaging Center for use by patients

A motion to Approve was made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0

Item #6 – Request for 20mph Speed Safety Zones south of Somerville Av

| Street | Start | End |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Mossland St | Elm St | Somerville Av |
| Miller St | Beacon St | Sacramento St (both directions) |
| Kent St | Beacon St | Dead End (both directions) |
| Harrison St | Kent St | Ivaloo St (both directions) |
| Ivaloo St | Harrison St | Park St (both directions) |
| Morgan St | Park St | Beacon St (both directions) |
| Park St | Beacon St | Somerville Av (both directions) |
| Eliot St | Park St | Properzi Way (both directions) |
| Properzi Way | Beacon St | Village St (both directions) |
| Village St | Dane St | Properzi Way |
| Durham St | Beacon St | Hanson St |
| Hanson St | Village St | Washington St |
| Dane St | Somerville Av | Washington St (both directions) |
| Skehan St | Dane Street | Hanson Street (both directions) |
| Dane Ave | Leland St | Dane St |
| Leland St | Washington St | Dane Av |
| Hawkins St | Washington St | Somerville Av |
| Lake St | Church St | Hawkins St (both directions) |
| Carlton St | Lake St | Somerville Av (both directions) |
| Church St | Lake St | Somerville Av (both directions) |
| Tyler St | Dane St | Properzi Way (both directions) |

- Alexandra Kleyman explained similar to previous requests the Mobility Division is working to create 20mph Speed Safety Zones on residential streets
- Lena Webb supports the request, neighbors very appreciative.
- Resident Ian Woloschin lives in the area and supports the request.

A motion to Approve was made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0

Item #7 – Request to amend the signage at the existing fire lane at 48 Lincoln Parkway so the fire lane encompasses the top of the circle not the entire circle

- Thomas Graney referenced a picture previously entered into the record and explained the existing fire lane signage was incorrect, the fire lane should be a total of 47ft with signs posted as indicated in the picture.

A motion to Approve was made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0

Prior Business

Item #8 – Review the previously approved fire lane (June 2021) at 6-8 Lincoln Parkway on the south side of the street 40 ft. west

- Thomas Graney explained this request did not come from the Fire Chief but was the result of a complaint of cars encroaching on the driveway, this is not a valid reason for a fire lane and the Chief does not support approval.

A motion to rescind the prior approval was made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lena Webb.

Motion passed: 5-0

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm was made by Lena Webb, 2nd by Mark Niedergang.

Motion passed: 5-0